Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan Emerald Ash Borer Response Project

2004 EMERALD ASH BORER DETECTION TREE PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. WHAT IS THE EMERALD ASH BORER?

A. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a highly destructive, exotic insect that was discovered in southeast Michigan in 2002. It is responsible for the decline and/or death of eight million ash trees in the Detroit metro-area, and it currently threatens the vast ash tree resource of Michigan and the rest of North America.

Q. WHAT IS BEING DONE TO ADDRESS EMERALD ASH BORER IN MICHIGAN?

A. The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), in cooperation with other state and federal agencies, has initiated a response program to eliminate the Emerald Ash Borer from Michigan. For more information visit the MDA's web site at www.michigan.gov/mda and click on "Emerald Ash Borer" in the spotlight section or visit www.emeraldashborer.info.

Detecting and eliminating EAB populations is an essential component of the federal, multi-state strategy to eradicate EAB from North America. Research has demonstrated that the use of detection trees can provide a very useful tool for the early detection of EAB, especially in low-level populations. As a result and based on recommendations of the EAB National Science Advisory Panel, Michigan has initiated a statewide detection tree program to locate previously undetected populations of EAB.

Q. WHAT IS AN EMERALD ASH BORER DETECTION TREE?

A. Detection trees can be used to identify areas of pest infestation. An EAB detection tree is an ash tree with a section of the bark removed from the lower trunk and a layer of tanglefoot (a very sticky, waxy substance) applied to the trunk above the area of removed bark. The distressed tree lures and captures EAB adults that are present in the area. Current research supports the use of detection trees as the best available tool for the detection of EAB, especially in small, low-density populations.

Q. HOW DOES AN EMERALD ASH BORER DETECTION TREE WORK?

A. Although the Emerald Ash Borer can and does attack and kill healthy ash trees, it prefers to infest trees that are weakened and in poor health. The detection trees placed across Michigan to detect EAB will be "girdled" by removing the bark from a section of the trunk. This injury makes the detection tree more attractive to female beetles looking for a place to lay eggs. An EAB adult coming into contact with the tanglefoot becomes trapped. The traps will be monitored to determine if EAB is present in area. However, not all EAB will come into contact with the

tanglefoot while laying eggs. Therefore, the detection trees will be cut down in the fall, and the bark will be peeled from sections of the tree to detect EAB larvae that may be overwintering under the bark of the ash detection tree. The trees will then be chipped and removed from the area.

Q. WHY ARE EMERALD ASH BORER DETECTION TREES IMPORTANT?

A. The core infestation of Emerald Ash Borer in Michigan is restricted to the southeast corner of the state. However, the movement of infested ash tree materials (e.g., nursery trees, saw logs, and firewood) out of this area has resulted in small "outlier" infestations at several locations outside this core area. The Michigan Department of Agriculture has responded to the risk of artificial movement of EAB by implementing a quarantine on the movement of ash logs, firewood and nursery stock. Click here for a current copy of the quarantine.

Q. WILL DETECTION TREES ATTRACT EAB TO MY AREA?

A. Detection trees are designed to capture Emerald Ash Borer adults already present in your area, not to lure EAB from long distances or create new infestations. If EAB is collected from a detection tree, it is because a population already exists in the area as a result of the movement of ash nursery trees, saw logs, or firewood from the infested area of southeast Michigan.

Q. WHERE WILL THE DETECTION TREES BE LOCATED?

A. Detection trees for detecting Emerald Ash Borer will be placed across the entire state of Michigan, with the exception of the known generally infested area of southeast Michigan. Detection trees will be placed in at varying densities to ensure thorough coverage of the entire state. Every effort will be made to place detection trees in public rights-of-way and will also be placed in selected state parks and state and federal forest campgrounds and areas. When necessary, traps will be placed on private property, with landowner permission.

Q. WHAT IF I FIND AN EAB DETECTION TREE?

A. If you locate an Emerald Ash Borer detection tree, please do not disturb it. Any disturbance of the tree can lower its effectiveness in detecting EAB. Further, the tanglefoot used to collect EAB adults, though nontoxic, is very difficult to wash off. Soap and other standard cleaning agents will not remove the tanglefoot. It must be removed with a solvent such as "Histoclear," "Gojo," or baby oil.

Q. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE DETECTION TREES?

A. The detection trees will be identified, girdled, and have tanglefoot applied during late spring and early summer. Throughout the summer, the trees will be periodically checked to see if EAB adults have been caught in the tanglefoot. Starting in early September and concluding in December, all detection trees will be cut down, the bark peeled to look for EAB larvae, and the

tree disposed of. If you have found a detection tree that has not been removed by December 31, 2004, please contact the MDA toll-free at (866) 325-0023.

Q. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF EAB IS FOUND IN A DETECTION TREE?

A. The discovery of Emerald Ash Borer in a detection tree could result in several possible responses, depending on a variety of factors, including geographic location, time of year, proximity to other EAB detections, as well as other considerations. Impacted property owners will be notified by the Michigan Department of Agriculture if action is anticipated as a result of finding EAB in a detection tree.